

MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY  
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

October 12, 2021, 4:00pm  
via Microsoft Teams

Present via remote connection: N. Anthonisen, K. Bell, P. Berry, A. Beverley, B. Blakney, J-P. Boudreau (Chair), C. Burke, B. Clayton, A. Comfort, H. Crouse, T-A. Dixon, B. Evans, A. Fancy, S. Fanning, N. Farooqi, S. Fleming, L. Garnett, D. Hamilton, L-D. Hamilton, M. Hamilton, J. Hennessy (Vice-Chair), R. Inglis, C. Ionescu, K. Johnston, J. Kalyn, D. Keeping, L. Kern, A. Koval, A. Kreuger, R. Lapp, A. LePage, M. Levesque, D. Lieske, M. Litvak, C. Lovekin, R. Majithia, C. Major, V. Meli, N. Milliea, R. Minocha-McKenney, R. Moser (Secretary), G. Ouellette, R. Polegato, C. Pringle-Carver, B. Robertson, S. Runge, V. St. Pierre, E. Steuter, J. Tomes, N. Vogan, W. Wilson

Observers: C. Quint, G. Sandala

Regrets: S. Keller, G. MacLean de Stecher

01.10.12 Land Acknowledgement

J-P. Boudreau reminded Senate that Mount Allison is situated on unceded Mi'kmaq land and encouraged Senators to endeavour to learn and embody Indigenous ways of knowing. He thanked the Mount Allison Community for participation and engagement in the week of events acknowledging the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30).

02.10.12 Approval of agenda

J-P. Boudreau proposed a minor modification to the agenda as circulated: that N. Farooqi be named as the mover for item #8 concerning a Motion by the Academic Matters Committee.

**Motion (B. Robertson/N.Farooqi): that Senate adopt the agenda as modified.**

**Motion carried**

03.10.12 Approval of the minutes (14 September, 2021)

J-P. Boudreau noted a correction in the reporting of statistics of vaccinated students. A name misspelling and a Senator attendance error were noted.

**Motion (J. Kalyn/V. St.Pierre): that Senate adopt the minutes of the meeting of 14 September, 2021.**

**Motion carried**

04.10.12 Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

05.10.12 Chair's remarks

### *COVID-19*

The Chair indicated that since the last Senate meeting the province reinstated the Mandatory Order and that presently we're in a 'circuit breaker' of increased restrictions to minimize community transmission. The Mt.A. community continues in compliance and diligence as our COVID team monitors vaccination rates in students and staff. The Chair reported to date 558 faculty and staff fully vaccinated and a small number still to be verified. Of students are 2,102 fully vaccinated, with a small number still to be verified. We are conducting a small number of tests twice weekly, and so far all of these tests are negative. The Chair thanked VP Anne Comfort and Matt Maston for their leadership in health awareness for the community.

### *Enrollment*

The Chair indicated that MPHEC official enrollment data for all Atlantic Universities will be released on Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. Mt.A. will be reporting 2,275 full time students, which is a 3.8% increase from last year's 2,192. While this is a very strong result and most encouraging (in the context of COVID), the increases are largely driven by 1 or 2 programs. He thanked the program coordinators, Heads, Deans, and the Provost for their work on program innovation and differentiation, aiming to help offset enrollment challenges. Mt.A.'s part-time student numbers are down 41% over last year, at 89 (from 152). This is not surprising given COVID, but this is an area of growth for us to consider for increased recruitment and retention of part-time students and continuing education.

### *Maclean's Rankings*

The Chair expressed his sense of honour at Mt.A. receiving a top 2 ranking by Macleans Magazine in this year's annual university rankings. He thanked Mt.A. faculty, staff, and students for this collective result. The Chair said while we have never taken for granted our top rankings, we always benefit from the opportunity to see where we can improve. President's Cabinet has discussed area signaled for improvement in these rankings are working towards addressing these. The Chair said that we can very proud of this sort of external evaluation.

### *Events*

Frequency of events is decreased during the circuit breaker, but there have been some very successful events since last Senate meeting. The Chair noted the Week of Activities for Truth and Reconciliation and singled out Elder Nevin's talk at the President Speaker Series. The Chair noted some excellent recent results in varsity competition, with special mention of the exciting successes of the women's and men's soccer teams, women's and men's basketball teams, the

hockey team and the football team. The Chair thanked everyone who organized and will participate in Mt.A. online Open House coming up on Oct 14-15. He noted a book launch for Renée Belliveau's 'The Sound of Fire' about the 1941 Mt.A. residence fire. The Chair noted a number of events associated with Culture Days in New Brunswick, running to October 25<sup>th</sup>.

There was no discussion.

#### 06.10.12 Candidates for Degrees – October Graduation

The Chair indicated that Senate will move *in camera*. Senate considered candidates for degrees *in camera*. The Chair moved Senate *ex camera*.

#### 07.10.12 Fall Convocation

J-P. Boudreau declared Convocation open. The Chair and the VP Academic donned mortarboard caps. As Vice-Chancellor, the Chair conferred degrees in absentia to the candidates whom Senate had approved. Senators signaled congratulations with digital applause. The Chair then declared Convocation closed.

#### 08.10.12 Report from Academic Matters, Curriculum and Academic

**Motion: (N. Farooqi/V. St.Pierre) The Academic Matters, Curriculum and Academic Committee moves that Senate approve the new Minor in Language and the Mind as described in the report for the 2022-23 academic calendar.**

**Motion carried**

J-P. Boudreau congratulated K. Bell (MLLC) and invited her to speak to the motion passed. K. Bell thanked everyone who helped, especially faculty in MLLC, PSYC, discussants at Faculty Council, the Registrar and the team in the Registrar's Office, and to the Dean of Arts.

#### 09.10.12 Report from University Planning Committee

J. Hennessy presented this term's written report consisting of the UPC's rankings of position requests put forward in the Unit Plans. He explained the committee grouped into 'Retirement Replacement – High Priority', 'New position – High Priority' and 'Other requested positions'. Three searches have been authorized, including PSYC, ECON, and COMM. The Provost indicated he is working on others which have met with some delays but is hoping they can be addressed very soon.

J-P. Boudreau thanked the UPC for their thoughtful engagement with the university's priorities, and indicated that part of the UPC's work is directed to ameliorating and strengthening programs with an aim to address concerns with enrolment. K. Bell expressed appreciation for the process,

and gratitude for the early timing of the decision. Bell asked if it is possible for the UPC to inform heads and directors with unsuccessful requests with a rubric of criteria or some specific feedback of how to improve. The Provost replied that the criteria come partly as given in each Unit request, and the UPC assesses which positions address university priorities such as enrolments, or supporting growth or evolution of programs. P. Berry echoed Bell's gratitude for the timing of the report. He indicated that the COMM position named as high priority is not described and labeled as it was when requested. The Provost said this may be a mistake, but thought the labels were the ones the UPC had been working with since receiving the Unit plans. B. Robertson asked if there is a new more conservative policy now operating, i.e., if a Unit loses a member, then a member is replaced in that Unit. The Provost said no such policy is operative, and clarified that the 'Retirement Replacement' and 'New position' categories are because the UPC thought these are very different sorts of need and thus difficult to compare. J-P. Boudreau said that cross-disciplinary connections are desirable, especially ones that meet student demands, noting that Kutay Ulkuer's team in Recruitment does a good job learning more about these latter.

#### 10.10.12 Update from Research and Creative Activities Committee

The Provost reported that the RCAC reviewed updates to the Mt.A. strategic plan and indicated that the document presented here features some updates in language concerning EDI. The strategic plan expires at the end of this academic year, and a committee is to be formed in Winter to draft a new plan. The Provost thanked everyone who has been involved in a laborious process so far, and expressed special gratitude for much work done by Dr. Greg Sandala. J-P. Boudreau echoed this thanks to Greg and to Maria Thistle in the Office of Research Services.

#### 11.10.12 Report from Committee on Committees

A. Koval indicated that the report consists of motions to staff committees for the current AY. As the Secretary prepared the digital voting mechanism in MS Teams, J. Kalyn serenaded Senate on bass clarinet.

**Motion: (A. Koval/S. Runge) The Committee on Committees moves that Senate acclaim the following nominees to fill these Senate Committee vacancies to commence immediately for a three year term ending June 30, 2024.**

**Academic Matters (Academic and Curriculum) Committee: 1 vacancy (faculty or librarian)**

**Nomination:** Suzie Andrews (Arts)

**Academic Matters (Regulations) Committee: 3 vacancies (must include 1 member from Sciences and 1 member from Social Sciences)**

**Nomination:** Roopen Majithia (Arts)

**Nomination:** Geneviève Desmarais (Science)

**Motion carried**

J-P. Boudreau thanked and the newly-elected committee members for volunteering their service, and J. Kalyn for his musical prowess.

#### 12.10.12 Discover Mt.A

J-P. Boudreau invited any announcements of noteworthy events and achievements in the Mount Allison community.

A. Fancy noted the Tucker Teaching Award address given by Dr. Susie Andrews. Fancy said the talk was brilliant, and while focused in her discipline, was inspiring and motivating regardless of disciplinary perspective. The Tucker family was present, who have been long and valued financial and moral supporters of excellent teaching at Mount Allison. J-P. Boudreau echoed these acknowledgments and sentiments.

N. Farooqi noted that Dr. J. Kurek secured MITACS funding for a project engaging underrepresented youth. He echoed the Chair's signal to New Brunswick Culture Days, noting that Dr. R. Polegato's class participates regularly. He thanked the Crabtree Foundation for their continued engagement and funding innovative projects. J-P. Boudreau echoed this thanks to the Crabtree Foundation and extended thanks to VP C. Pringle-Carver for her work with them.

#### 13.10.12 Other business

There was no other business.

#### 14.10.12 Adjournment

The Chair requested J. Kalyn to play us out on the bass clarinet. Kalyn obliged. The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Moser  
Secretary